

Africa were reported, and there is no clear indication of arrivals across the North Sea from Scandinavia.

The number of our recorders has now risen again to about 180, with records sent directly or indirectly to us or drawn from other publications. We are very grateful for these, and we thank especially those who provided the results of detailed daily observations or moth trapping over much of the season. We have again, as usual, adopted the Watsonian system of counties and their vice-counties as our basis, and we ask recorders to do so where this differs from their postal addresses. The history and advantages of this system have recently been discussed by M.G. Morris (*Ent. Rec.* **102**: 25-30).

(to be concluded)

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***Lomographa* species (Lep.: Geometridae) and *Eriogaster lanestris* Linn. (Lep.: Lasiocampidae) overwinter fully developed in the pupa.**

I read with interest Adrian Riley's note on overwintering pupae of *Chloroclystis v-ata*, some of which had fully developed moths inside (*Ent. Rec.* **102**: 38). I have experience of breeding *Lomographa temerata* D. & S. and *L. bimaculata* Fabr. In both species the wing markings of the moths become clearly visible through the pupal skin in the autumn. They overwinter at this stage with the moth apparently fully formed and hatch the following summer. I have only bred very small numbers of these species but they have all developed as described. I suspect that these *Lomographa* species always overwinter in this way.

An entry in my notebook on 12th December 1977 states that I had four *Eriogaster lanestris* pupae. Two male and one female pupae had fully formed moths inside and one female did not but was still alive. Two males hatched on 26th March 1978 but the female pupae died. South (*The moths of the British Isles*) states that this species may overwinter for two or three years and has been known to emerge after seven years. He states that the moth is said to be fully developed within the chrysalis all the time.— Dr B.P. HENWOOD, 4 The Paddocks, Abbotskerwell, Newton Abbot, Devon.

***Hippotion celerio* L. (Lep.: Sphingidae) Silver-striped Hawk-moth in Dorset.**

On the night of 26th/27th September 1989, Dick Chatelain and I operated several mv lights on the cliff tops overlooking Swanage Bay, Dorset. Favourable weather conditions and reports of migrant activity in the area boded well, but around midnight, after five hours of trapping, with a single *Mythimna albipuncta* D. & S. being the only possible immigrant our optimism had distinctly started to wane. Two hours later when even the resident species had ceased to appear we decided to call it a night.

At about 2.30 am, within seconds of extinguishing my last lamp, a male *H. celerio* audibly landed on the sheet and it was almost sacrilege to box such quivering splendour. With renewed enthusiasm we resumed full operations and within fifteen minutes Dick was rewarded with a gravid female *Heliothis armigera* Hb. from which we both reared a fine series.

In the past *H. celerio* had the occasional "good" year, but more recently, reported visits to Britain have been much declined; and I can find but eight records for the 1970s and only four others for the 1980s.—  
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**A melanic form of *Paradarsia extersaria* Hüb. (Lep.: Geometridae) in N.W. Kent.**

Melanic forms of this moth would seem to have been distinctly rare in Britain, there being but two specimens, both ab. *variegata* Raebel, in the National Collection, one undated from S. Devon and the other from the New Forest, 13.vi.1899; a third specimen is noted by Chalmers-Hunt (*Butterflies and Moths of Kent* 3, 1981) from Bickley, June 1912. Ford (*Moths*, 1953) however, states that there are several melanic forms of *extersaria*, two of which, including *variegata*, occur in a few Kentish woods and that their genetics do not appear to be known. Melanic *extersaria* seems not to be mentioned elsewhere in the standard textbooks, including Barrett (*Lepidoptera of the British Islands*, 1901) and curiously Kettlewell (*The Evolution of Melanism*, 1973).

At the Annual Exhibition of the British Entomological and Natural History Society in 1987 D. O'Keefe exhibited a specimen of *variegata* from Petts Wood, Kent, 27.v.87, and the following year B. Skinner exhibited several obtained at mv light in the woodland near my residence, taken 8.vi.1988. That year two specimens were noted at my garden mv light, on June 12th and 26th. In 1989 I understand further specimens were encountered at mv light in these woodlands at Dartford by B. Skinner and R. Chatelain, while on 14th June I found a specimen settled upon the trunk of a sweet chestnut tree at the edge of the woodland; another visited my garden mv light on 9th June.

These, and other woodlands, in N.W. Kent have been well worked entomologically for over a hundred years, so this sudden appearance of melanic *extersaria* in some numbers, especially during a period when atmospheric pollution has dramatically decreased, is surely remarkable, although it may be accompanying a local population increase in the species over the past few years. My garden mv light has been in operation since 1969, but *extersaria* was not observed at it until 1976 (1), and after that not until 1984 (1), and then annually from 1986 (3), 1987 (1), 1988 (11) to 1989 (10). A further intriguing question is which are the Kentish woodlands referred to by E.B. Ford, are there specimens from them in existence, and if so, where are they located?—  
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